

Stanley Martin

Candidate for Rochester City Council

East District

- Name one issue on which you disagree with the current administration and why.

I disagree with the current administration's push for a State takeover of the City School District. There simply isn't enough evidence to substantiate the effectiveness of a State takeover, or the need for one, as there have been notable improvements overtime. Additionally, we are yet to receive a comprehensive plan of what a State takeover in the Rochester City School District will look like; blind support without fully understanding multi-level impact is premature.

The state of our City School District is a very important, emotionally charged issue, as it impacts our children and our future as a city. We must, however, resist the urge to simplify this complex issue by buying into the false cause and effect narrative that the 7-member School Board is the cause of the low performance of an entire School District. Instead, we must act to address the many structural factors that influence educational outcomes for students. The outcomes of students enrolled in the City School District correlate with the historical racial and economic segregation thus systematically creating inequity and limiting access to opportunity and stability for families. Addressing these systemic problems will have more of a lasting impact on students and families involved in the City School District, not the involvement of people who do not live in the community nor represent the interests of the community.

- What is the most important issue facing your district, and what is a specific proposal or action you propose to address it?

Development causing displacement. Rochester is ranked as one of the poorest cities in the country in relation to other large cities and the wealth disparity in the East District is one of the largest issues facing our city. Despite this fact, current development efforts further the wealth gap in the East District and fails to tackle the overwhelming need for affordable housing that is reflective of the average income of residents of our city. The increase in the demand for true affordable housing in the East District has been met with an overwhelming increase in the supply of luxury and market rate housing that fails to address the real needs of our residents.

I believe that housing is a human right and will therefore support and enact legislation that ensures that new housing development is reflective of the needs of the city and its residents. I will also ensure that new development does not displace families who have lived in our city for generations, the working poor, people with disabilities, and elderly people with fixed incomes.

I stand for:

- Opting into Universal Rent Control to ensure fair housing practices and supporting Just Cause Eviction legislation to address unjust evictions by predatory landlords. See Housing Justice for All for more detail.
- Subsidizing housing models like the Community Land Trust as a way of creating truly public land ownership, affordable home ownership and reinvesting in areas that experienced systemic disinvestment
- Enacting a Fair Development Act to ensure that publicly funded development prioritizes community needs. This legislation will require a Community Benefit Agreement for all publicly funded development in order to ensure that the investment of taxpayer dollars benefits the community. This act will also require proof of public awareness, public involvement and transparency in the

development process and in how tax breaks are assigned

- Investing in and incentivizing development that creates the options for tenant ownership
- Providing grants for low income homeowners to keep up with the costs of home repairs therefore allowing them to maintain property ownership
- Please identify one area in the city budget where you think the city should commit more resources than is currently proposed and why.

The City should expand the budget for the Summer of Opportunity Program, a great summer employment and training program for youth between 14-20, that is correlated with better student performance in schools. During the summer, when students are out of school and have limited supervision while parents are at work, they have more idle time that can very easily be occupied by delinquent behavior. This program pays students to gain work experience, thus allowing them to contribute to their households, garner a sense of real world responsibility, and expand awareness of their options. All children 14 and older enrolled in the City School District should have access to this opportunity by making the selection process less competitive and increasing funding to provide the opportunity to a wider variety of students in the district.

- What policies would you pursue to address housing affordability, evictions and/or landlord-tenant relations in your district?
 - Opting into Universal Rent Control to ensure fair housing practices and supporting Good Cause Eviction legislation to address unjust evictions by predatory landlords. See Housing Justice for All for more detail.
 - Subsidizing housing models like the Community Land Trust as a way of creating truly public land ownership, affordable home ownership and reinvesting in areas that experienced systemic disinvestment

- Enacting a Fair Development Act to ensure that publicly funded development prioritizes community needs. This legislation will require a Community Benefit Agreement for all publicly funded development in order to ensure that the investment of taxpayer dollars benefits the community. This act will also require proof of public awareness, public involvement and transparency in the development process and in how tax breaks are assigned
- Investing in and incentivizing development that creates the options for tenant ownership
- Providing grants for low income homeowners to keep up with the costs of home repairs therefore allowing them to maintain property ownership
- Will you vote for the Police Accountability Board as proposed in November – why or why not?
I will vote for the PAB. I’m an Executive Committee Member of the Police Accountability Board Alliance and I’ve worked closely with the member organizations of the Board to organize its unanimous passing in City Council. The unanimous support of this groundbreaking legislation will hold police accountable by the communities they serve for the instances of misconduct that systemically obliterates the trust between police and community. The independent PAB will also allow officers the opportunity to anonymously report misconduct, thus offering whistleblower protection and a layer of support for officers working to do the right thing.
- Do you support Mayor Warren’s push for a referendum calling for removal of the elected school board in favor of a state takeover of RCSD/appointed board, and why?
See answer above (“I disagree with the current administration’s push for a State takeover of the City School District ...”)
- What current policy or practice of city government would you seek to change if (re)elected, and why?

I will seek to make decision making meetings and processes more accessible and transparent. I will include a variety of times and locations that Council meetings and occur, to allow more accessibility for parents and families who work long hours and or have transportation barriers. I will allocate funding for child care at Council Meetings, food, transportation to meetings, funding for canvassers to go door to door to ensure that constituents are informed about upcoming meetings, opportunities to speak to council and awareness of important votes that will impact their lives today and for generations to come. My goal will be to ensure a participatory process, increase civic engagement and that the voices of city residents are intentionally included in the decision-making process.